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MINUTES

OF THE

Fourteenth Annual Session

OF THE

Zion Missionary Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

WATTS' GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH,

UNION COUNTY, N. C.,

October 14th, 15th and 16th, 1886.

Compiled by J. H. WARING, Clerk.

RALEIGH.
EDWARDS, BROUGHTON & CO., POWER PRINTERS AND BINDERS.
1887.

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LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

Bennett, Randall, Polkton, N. C.
Barrett, Wm. Diamond Hill, N. C.
Bowman, V. B. R., White's Store, N. C.
Brewer, Geo., Olive Branch, N. C.
Covington, D. A., White's Store, N.C.
Diggs, Robert, Cairo, N. C.
Dunlap, C., Wadesboro, N. C.
Gatewood, A., Lilesville, N. C.
Hasty, Berry, Dimond Hill, N. C.
Huntley, Joseph, Polkton, N. C.
Knotts, S. T., Monroe, N. C.
Lindsey, Jowers, Gibson's Mills, N. C.
Little, Isham, Beaverdam, N. C.
Meadows, C. M., Deep Creek, N. C.
Melton, Farker, Chesterfield, S. C.
Ratliff, Joseph, Deep Creek, N. C.
Shadd, Jacob, Cairo, N. C.
Streater, A. J., Wadesboro, N. C.
Sturdivant, B. J., Deep Creek, N. C.
Tillman, H. D., Wadesboro, N. C.
Watts, W. M., Monroe, N. C.

LIST OF LICENTIATES AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

Covington, R., Hornsboro, N. C.
Curtis, W. M., Lilesville, N. C.
Chambers, A. C., White's Store, N. C.
Diggs, J. D., Cairo, N. C.
Briley, W., Wadesboro, N. C.
Gaddy, Harry, Mt. Croghan, S. C.
Ingram, John, Lilesville, N. C.
Marshall, A. D., Lilesville, N. C.
McRae, Thos., Chesterfield, S. C.
Meadows, J., Brown Creek, N. C.
Parsons, B. J., Lilesville, N. C.
Redfern, Samuel, White's Store, N. C.
Wallace, Albert, Jones Creek, N. C.
Shadd, Daniel, Cairo, N. C.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.
Sandy Ridge	Joseph Ratliff	Tony McKoy—Jones Creek, N. C.
Deep Creek	Joseph Ratliff	Robin Baucum—Deep Creek, N. C.
Timmonsville	Joseph Ratliff	E. W. Gatewood—Mt. Croghan, S. C.
Mt. Level	Joseph Ratliff	Ben. Rivers—Chesterfield, S. C.
Philadelphia	Andrew Redfern	Jas. Rogers,—Brown Creek, N. C.
Meltonsville	D. A. Covington	R. H. Covington—White's Store, N. C.
Parson Grove	A. Gatewood	H. Liles—Madra, N. C.
Poplar Hill	C. M. Meadows	H. Polk—Poplar Hill, N. C.
Mt. Zion	R. Bennett	James Smith
Singwell	Jos. Huntley	S. Huntley—Richardson Creek, N. C.
Flint Ridge	Frank Jones	R. D. Staton—Beaver Dam, N. C.
Bethel	A. J. Streater	
Liberty Hill	Jas. Vanlandinham	
Goodman's Creek	A. J. Streater	Chas. Washington—Cheraw, S. C.
Poplar Springs	A. J. Streater	J. F. Davis—Diamond Hill, N. C.
Rockford	A. J. Streater	Elijah Gaddy—Wadesboro, N. C.
Staten	Wm. Barrett	
Brown Creek	H. D. Tillman	J. Briley—Wadesboro, N. C.
Elizabeth	Jacob Shadd	H. P. DeBerry—Cairo, N. C.
Nicy Grove	R. Bennett	John Flake—Ames' Turnout, N. C.
Sturdivant Grove	B. J. Sturdivant	W. M. D. Taylor—Polkton, N. C.
Salem	Farker Melton	Jesse Edwards—Chesterfield, S. C.
Watts' Grove	W. M. Watts	Richard Hamilton—Monroe, N. C.
Gum Springs	R. Covington	Albert Sinclair—Hornsboro, S. C.

NOTE:—I am highly pleased with the improvement on church letters, and to know that so many purchased blanks to make their reports on. But yet there is room for improvements, just look at the Sunday School Statistics how many failed to report how many scholars, how much money, etc.

J. H. WARING.

PROCEEDINGS.

WATTS' GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH,
UNION CO., N. C., Oct. 14th, 1886.

The Zion Missionary Baptist Association, pursuant to adjournment, met with the church at this place in its fourteenth annual session.

Rev. A. J. Streater called the Association to order by singing hymn 637th. Prayer by Rev. Jacob Shadd, after which Rev. A. J. Streater preached the introductory Sermon. Scripture lesson 19th Psalm, Text Heb. 12—29, 13—1, "For our God is a consuming fire," "Let brotherly love continue."

Rev. C. M. Meadows closed by singing hymn 356. Prayer by Rev. R. Bennett. Sang doxology, adjourned for 30 minutes. Benediction by Rev. C. M. Meadows.

EVENING SESSION.

At the hour designated, the Association was called to order by the Moderator (Rev. Jos. Ratliff). Sang hymn 417, "Our Former Hope, etc." Prayer by Bro. A. Horn. Scripture lesson, 1st Cor. 2nd chapter.

Letters from the various churches of the Association were read, and names of delegates enrolled.

Sandyridge—Booker Little, J. H. Waring.
Deep Creek—M. P. Bennett, John Bennett.
Meltonsville—Frank Chambers, Samuel Redfern.
Poplar Springs—Perry Davis, J. F. Davis.
Poplar Hill—H. Polk, Perry Gathings.
Mt. Zion—Wiley Hinson, Arter Horn.
Mt. Level—Robert Crawford, Alexander Smith.
Nicy Grove—R. A. Williams, Nelson Berrino.
Parson's Grove—Jack Liles, B. J. Parsons, A. D. Marshall.
Timmonsville—Wyatt Hinson, R. T. Sellars.
Rockford—Wm. Tillman, Robt. Osbrooks, Reubin Liles.
Flint Ridge—Anderson Hasty, Henry Hasty.
Singwell—Sandy Huntley, Booker Haley.

Bethel, (Formerly Davis)—Benjamin Davis, Ransom Crump.
Philadelphia—Jas. Rogers, Abram Kellock, Geo. Grady.
Goodman's Creek—Clinton Caston.
Statons—A. M. Medley, W. S. Staton, A. T. Tison.
Sturdivants Grove—Wm. D. Taylor, Daniel Sturdivant.
Elizabeth—Robert Diggs, J. D. Diggs.
Brown Creek—Charles Simons.
Watts' Grove—Wm. Watts, Richard Hamilton.
Salem—Jesse Edwards.
Liberty Hill—James Vanlandingham.

After which a quorum being present the Association went into an election of officers for the ensuing year, the result was as follows: For Moderator, Rev. Joseph Ratliff, Deep Creek, N. C.; Assistant Moderator, Rev. J. Shadd, Cario, N. C.; For Recording Secretary, J. H. Waring, McFarlan, N. C.; A. D. Marshall, Corresponding Secretary, Lilesville, N. C.; For Treasurer, Arter Horn, Polkton, N. C.

On motion, no brother is to speak longer than five minutes on the same question, nor more than twice on the same subject.

The Moderator appointed a Committee on Church Letters, consisting of brethren M. P. Bennett, J. D. Diggs.

On motion, adjourned to meet to morrow at 9 o'clock A. M. Singing hymn 681st. Prayer by Bro. Frank Parsons. Benediction by Moderator.

SECOND DAY—Morning Session.

The ministers and delegates composing the Association assembled at 9:45 A. M. Devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator by singing hymn 385th, "Repent the voice, &c." Scripture lesson 5th Psalm, "Give ear to my word," etc. Prayer by Rev. A. Gatewood.

The Moderator announced the house in order for business.

On motion, the proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

An invitation was extended to visiting ministers and brethren from other Associations.

Revs. J. W. Davis from the Anson Association, A. Covington from the Pee Dee Branch Association, T. B. Norris from New Hope Association, presented themselves, and were cordially received and invited to take part in our transactions.

After a brief discussion by brethren J. D. Diggs, J. F. Davis and others, respecting good behavior, the Moderator appointed a committee on devotional exercises consisting of pastor and deacons of this church.

Churches absent yesterday were called on for their letters, Poplar Hill and Singwell reported, received and names of delegates enrolled.

An invitation was extended to any newly constituted church or churches wishing to join this Association. At which time Gum Springs Baptist Church of Chesterfield county, S. C., was presented by Bro. R. Covington, upon investigation we learned that the said Gum Springs church was organized September 11th, 1886, by Revs. C. M. Meadows and D. A. Covington, also that her othodoxy was sufficient, hence, on motion, she was received and enrolled as a member of Zion Association.

On motion, Silver Run Church continue under the watchful care of this Association.

The Committee on Grievances was called on for their report of last year's work. Committee retired, during which time Bro. J. D. Diggs suggested that this Association form a system of education with which the young brethren making applications for license to preach, or desiring to be ordained, shall comply with before being granted their request. Some brief remarks were made upon this subject by Rev. T. B. Norris, brethren B. J. Parson, J. H. Waring and others, among whose voices were heard that of our honorable Moderator, advocating the cause of ministerial education, and acknowledging his inefficiency in the ministry for the like of a more thorough education.

On motion, adjourned for 30 minutes, by singing hymn 256 "Prepare me," &c.

Evening Session.

The Association re-assembled by singing hymn 628, Moderator in his seat. Prayer by Rev. Farker Melton.

Committee on Grievances reported the following:

We your Committee on Grievances after having investigated the matter, find Bro. W. P. Graham not worthy of the pastorate. Also the act of ordaining brethren Thos. McRae and Geo. Brewer without permission from the chairman of the examining board of Zion Association (Rev. R. Bennett) illegal, and therefore, unappreciated by the Association. Rev. A. Gatewood, *Chairman*,

Appointed to preach at night, Rev. J. Lindsey, Rev. T. B. Norris alternate. Text Ezekiel 37—4, "O ye dry bones."

On motion, adjourned until 9 o'clock A. M., by singing hymn 652nd. Prayer by Rev. A. Covington. Benediction by Rev. S. J. Shadd.

THIRD DAY—Morning Session.

The Association re-assembled at 9:50, A. M. Moderator in his seat. Services introduced by assistant Moderator, by singing hymn on page 60. Prayer by Rev. C. M. Meadows. Scripture lesson Romans 13th chapter.

On motion, the proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

The Association extended an invitation to visiting ministers and brethren.

Visitors appointed at our last annual session to visit the various Associations were called on for reports, and Revs. A. J. Streater and R. Bennett stated that they visited the Pee Dee South Association and was cordially received, and spoke well of the apparent progress of the Association, and especially of their strong financial condition. Also brethren J. D. Diggs and Daniel Shadd reported a visit to the Pee Dee Branch Association, and stated that she was seemingly in a prosperous condition, and financially prepared for business.

The Finance Committee, composed of one delegate from each church, retired for the purpose of transacting business.

Appointed to preach at the stand, Rev. A. Gatewood, Rev. Isham Little, alternate. Scripture lesson: Matthew 25 : 31 ; Text, 19th chapter 1st verse of Matthew.

The writers appointed at our last annual session to write on the various subjects, were called on for reports. While the reports were being prepared for reading, a very striking essay, prepared by Miss. Winsie K. Shadd, subject, "Gospel Temperance," was read by J. D. Diggs, and on motion ordered to be appended to the minutes, after which a report from H. Polk, on Intemperance, and from B. J. Shadd on Good of Temprance, and from Dan. Shadd on Ministerial education, and from J. F. Davis, on Church Government was read, and on motion, ordered to be appended to the minutes.

The reading of several reports were omitted, owing to the shortness of time, and like of space in the minutes, and the clerk was ordered to append such part of the omitted pieces as was most preferable and as space would admit to the minutes.

Collection at the stand for the day $2.76.

The Examining Committee appeared and asked leave to report and on motion, reported the following:

We your Examining Committee after a careful investigation, *resolve* the recognition of brethren G. W. Brewer, of Olive Branch, N. C., and Joseph Huntley of Polkton, N. C. Deferring the same recognization of Bro. Thos. McRae, until our next annual session.

R. BENNETT, *Chairman.*

The ordination of brethren Brewer and Huntley to take place this P. M.

On motion the report was received.

On motion, adjourned for 30 minutes. Benediction by the Moderator.

EVENING SESSION.

The Association met at the hour designated. Moderater in seat. Devotional exercises consisted in singing hymn 624th. House announced in order for business.

The Committee on Church Letters submitted a report which was adopted. (See report).

The Finance Committee also submitted their report which was adopted. (See report).

Rev. R. Bennett was appointed to preach Saturday night. Text, Acts 10:47.

At this juncture the Clerk recognizes the importance of publishing that each church is requested to forward to the Association at each annual session, fifty cents to represent her in the Baptist State Convention; also twenty-five cents to send a delegate to the Convention.

Appointed to write and report at our next annual session: on Sunday Schools, William Nivens; on Education, R. J. Beverly; on Church Government, P. J. Nivens. Appointed to preach the Missionary Sermon, Sunday at 11 o'clock A. M. Rev. Jos. Ratliff and A. D. Marshall alternate.

On motion, it was ordered that an obituary of seven of our deceased brethren (see obituary in appendix) was to be prepared and appended to the minutes by the clerk.

On motion, Bro. J. H. Waring was appointed Sunday School Missionary.

On motion, Rev. Joseph Ratliff was delegated to the Baptist State Convention.

A collection was taken amounting to $2.61.

On motion, the Association will hold its next annual session with the church at Sandy Ridge, Anson county, N. C., three and a half miles west of Morven, commencing on Thursday before the third Sunday in October, 1887, at 11 o'clock A. M., sharp. It is earnestly hoped that every pastor, deacon and member will put forth every effort possible, both spiritually and temporally to make the ensuing session one of the grandest and noblest of our existence. Oh! may we all remember the words of our dear Saviour on the Mount, that we are the "salt of the earth," but if the salt has lost its savor, it is thenceforth good for nothing but to be cast out and trodden under foot of man. Neither are we if we fail to exert ourselves to extend our Master's Kingdom on earth. How can we expect God's smiles upon us if we are selfish, narrow hearted, and proud, failing, almost entirely, to appreciate the opportunities by which we are surrounded to make ourselves more Christlike.

On motion, Bro. J. D. Diggs will preach the Introductory Sermon at our next annual session, Bro. Daniel Shadd alternate.

Owing to the zealousness of the officers of the Association, and the hospitality of the good people of the community, shown by them during the session, a vote of thanks was tendered them.

On motion, adjourned by singing hymn 476. Prayer by Rev. Robert Diggs. Benediction.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

At the hour designated quite a large audience had congregated at the stand and thereabouts to listen to the Missionary sermon, which, according to appointment, was very ably preached by Rev. Jos. Ratliff (after singing hymn on page 80 by A. D. Marshall, and prayer by Rev. T. B. Norris) from 1st Kings, 18—21, "And Elijah said unto all the people" etc., preceded by the reading of a Scripture lesson

from Matthew 7th chapter. Closed by singing hymn 385, "Repent the voice" etc. Public collection $4.02. Prayer by Rev. R. Bennett.

REV. JOSEPH RATLIFF, MODERATOR.
J. H. WARING, *Recording Clerk.*

REPORT ON CHURCH LETTERS.

Sandy Ridge—In a good condition and good Sunday School.
Deep Creek—At peace and harmony, and a good Sunday School.
Meltonsville—At peace and harmony, and a good Sunday School.
Poplar Hill—At peace, and a good Sunday School.
Mt. Zion—In a prosperous condition, and a good Sunday School.
Parson's Grove—In a prosperous condition, and a Sunday Schol.
Nicy Grove—In a prosperous condition, and a Sunday School.
Rock Ford—In a prosperous condition, and a Sunday School.
Flint Ridge—In a prosperous condition, and a Sunday School.
Singwell—At peace, and a Sunday School.
Bethel—At peace; prospering, but no Sunday School.
Poplar Springs—In good condition, and a prosperous Sunday School.
Timmonsville—In a prosperous condition, large Sunday School.
Mount Level—In a prosperous condition, a good Sunday School.
Sturdivant's Grove—Prosperous condition, and a good Sunday School.
Staten—At peace and harmony, and a Sunday School.
Philadelphia—In prosperous condition, and a good Sunday School.
Liberty Hill—At peace and harmony; no Sunday School.
Goodman's Creek—At peace and harmony; a good Sunday School.
Watts' Grove—At peace and harmony; no Sunday School.
Salem—In good condition, but no Sunday School.
Elizabeth—In a prosperous condition; a good Sunday School.
Brown Creek—At peace and harmony, and a Sunday School.
Silver Run—(Not organized), good condition, good Sunday School.
Gum Springs—Newly organized), good condition, good Sunday School.

M. P. BENNETT,
J. D. DIGGS,
Committee.

APPENDIX.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

DEAR BRETHREN:—I am highly pleased with the honor you have conferred upon me by allowing me to express a few of my sentiments upon this grand subject. Whereas, education is so essential in this our day that we, as young brethren in the ministry, to be sucessful, must diligently seek for a due portion of it. Let us notice Paul's charge to Timothy, "To continue in the things which thou hast learned from a child. While the world is growing wiser, *we*, as young ministers of Christ, should seek every qualification necessary to enable us to convince the gainsayer. The tide of sin is so high, that the hidden mysteries of the Word of God must be unfolded to convince the world of sin. Let us notice Christ when he commissioned His disciples. He said teach all nations. Evidently to teach the Word of God we must first acquire a knowledge of it ourselves. God has opened up the way by which we can do this if we will only appreciate it. He has given us the spirit, sense and health, books and teachers. Now, why not qualify ourselves, rather than make mock of God's word and our calling? If Christ alone has the words of eternal life, as one writer says, then how necessary it is that we should know it (word of God) that by it we may be saved ourselves and exhort others how they may be saved. Oh! may these truths rest upon the hearts of my young brethren in the ministry, that by them we may be enabled to preach the divine doctrine in its purity.

Yours fraternally, DANIEL SHADD.

Cairo, N. C., November 10, 1886.

ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

DEAR FRIENDS:—I am unable to estimate the good that might derive from being a good, earnest Sunday School scholar, but from self experience I can say that it is one of the many steps to wisdom. It is there that we learn so much about our blessed Saviour, where His blessed truths are so beautifully explained, simplified and illustrated to the old and young alike. Parents, children and friends, be punctual to Sunday School, and thereby be wise.

Jones Creek, N. C. A. WALLACE.

DEAR READERS:—Thank you for space in your volume to express my sentiments to my brother and sister workers in this grand cause. Life is full of surprises; some of them are shadowed with

sadness, some are full of sweetness. The Christian's experience abounds in such as thrills his or her heart with rapturous joy. God goes before them on their pilgrimage, anticipates their wishes, and is constantly surprising them with the tokens of His love. And every now and then they stumble upon some discovery of blessed results that have followed labors humbly done in Jesus' name. We must seize every instrumentality we can legitimately use to promote the Master's cause. When we see how ignorant the children of Christian parents are, of the precious truths taught in the Word of God, we feel that something must be done to remedy the evil which, if it continues, is likely to plunge the future generations into utter idolatry. Can we use a better tool for the present than the well-conducted Sabbath School? I think perhaps we cannot, especially where we can secure good religious teachers, and officers in general. I would be pleased to express some of the qualifications of teachers and general workers, but space will not admit. But let us remember this one fact, that before we can successfully teach or impress a truth upon others, we must be filled with it ourselves.

Yours in the work, R. J. BEVERLY.

Deep Creek, N. C., November 1, 1886.

GOOD OF TEMPERANCE.

DEAR READERS:—According to my understanding concerning temperance is this: I believe it to be a perfect word and needs no additions, whatever. The one who is trying to become a temperate person, is also seeking to become a perfect person. Notice if temperance shou'd take her perfect sway, it would not allow the intoxicating and disrespectful name and effects of liquors in the pulpits nor in our churches. It would break up the hiding places for murders and butchers of men. It would not allow us to hold so strongly to the filthy habits, which almost utterly destroy the influence of many of our most eloquent speakers in the ministry. Temperance is a good spirit, and when it gets into our hearts, it will mortify all iniquity and wilful sins, and that is just what Christ died for. Temperance consist of moderation in all things. This being true it seems that no person can be real temperate unless they have God's love in their hearts. We use the term good temperance or templars, but there is no bad temperance, hence, all temperance must be good, and all good must come from above, for all good things come from God. If this be the case temperance would drive out prejudices, envy and malace from the church of God. It would not allow pretended ministers to lay around men's houses when not preaching and allow themselves to be tempted by men's wives, instead of being at work. If men were more temperate, especially God's chosen vessels, the Gospel would have its due effect. It would have the same power now it had in past times. The more we search temperance the more virtue we find in it. Temperance has established the word of God from one generation to another. She has housed many souls in the Kingdom of our God. Daniel was a temperate man, he would not eat after idle gods, neither bow down to them. Neither would the Hebrew children. This was because of their good temperate spirits, and God was found with them. And even now

we can see the good of temperance prevailing in many ways. With these few remarks I ask that God may add a blessing to what few words I have written. And may he continue to add to this spirit until all may consider it well. And I pray that the time will soon come when temperance will take its seat in our churches, pulpits and in the hearts of men, work out much and everlasting good for God, through them.

Respectfully submitted, B. J. SHADD.

Marion Va., Oct. 1st, 1886.

CHURCH GOVERNMENT.

Having before me this all-important subject, I must first acknowledge my inability to render it obvious, but will attempt to write a sketch. There are three forms of this Government, viz: Episcopacy. Presbyterianism and Independency, the latter of which I wish to write, constitute the following divisions: (1) The governmental power is in the hands of the members, and neither Bishops nor Elders can do anything strictly, properly and ecclesiastically without the concurrence of the members. (2) The right of a majority of the members of the church to rule, is in accordance with the laws of Christ. The will of the majority having been expressed, the minority should submit. (3) The power of a church cannot be transferred or aleniated; church action is final; the power of a church cannot be delegated. There may be messengers of a church, but there cannot, in the proper use of the term, be delegates. These are highly important principles. And while the existence of church government depends on their form, recognition and application, it is an inquiry of vital moment. Does the New Testament inculcate these principles? If not, whatever may be said in condemnation of them possesses no obligatory force. Does the New Testament then inculcate the foundation of Independency, viz: that the governmental power of a church is under Christ with the members? The province of the Apostolic Church was to admit members into their union. See Rom. 14:1. To whom is this command addressed? Not to bishops, pastors, nor ruling elders, but to the church, because the epistle was written to all that be in Rome. New Testament Churches had a right to exclude unworthy members, and they exercised it. The churches of Christ have the same right in our day, and should not fail to exercise it. Let us notice the Apostle Paul, he bowed to the majesty of the doctrine of Church Independence; he virtually admitted that nothing could be done unless the church chose to act. So should we admit.

Respectfully submitted, J. F. DAVIS.

Diamond Hill, N. C., October 17, 1886.

TEMPERANCE.

We would recommend to every member of this Association the importance of preaching and teaching temperance as taught in the

Sacred Scripturers. Solomon says wine is a mocker and strong drink is raging. And whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. Also, it is written no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of heaven. Now. from this Scripture it is manifest that all drunkards will be denied admission into heaven, and should not be recognized as members of Christ's church here. And we would urge it upon our brethren as the only safe plan, to abstain entirely from all intoxicating drinks as a beverage. Until we do this, the progress of the Gospel will be greatly impeded and Christ's kingdom made to suffer.

Respectfully submitted, H. POLK.

Poplar Hill, Oct. 15th, 1886.

GOSPEL TEMPERANCE.

DEAR FRIENDS:—I beg leave to write you a short sketch on this important subject. Seeing the great need of temperance, I will not resist the inclination of my mind, but will write. Temperance is the moderate use of such things as are useful to us, and total abstinence from all things that harm us. Christian friends: It is duty and high time to write, speak, preach, teach, act and pray for temperance and religion; I mean pure and undefiled religion. Every person is either for or against temperance. Dear christian friends: Let us teach temperance both by example and by precept. O that our churches were freed from the shameful soil of tobacco and snuff! And how shall we free them? O that our communities were freed from drunkards. And how shall we free them? We first look to the occupants of the pulpit for examples, as the Apostle says: "Not as lords over God's heritage but making themselves examples for the flock." We next look to the officers and members of the churches and Sabbath schools for examples of temperance. While every christian should zealously strive to promote Gospel temperance, the greatest responsibility rests upon the leaders, especially preachers and teachers. We learn that the Apostle Paul preached temperance and said there was no law against such. Now let us band ourselves together and fight for gospel temperance. For if we like temperance we are yet in our sins, 2 Pet. 1:9. Let us instill these principles into the minds of the young, for, saith Solomon train a child in the way it should go and when old it will not depart from it. How true! The first thing to be done in training a child is to get his face in the right way, then lead him gently along. Put a child in the right way at first and it is for the whole course in life. O may the Lord give us grace and courage to act, teach and preach gospel temperance. Sink or swim I am for gospel temperance now and forever.

Respectfully yours, WINNIE K. SHADD.

Cario, Anson Co., N. C. Oct. 15*th*, 1886.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

We, your committee, desire to make the following expenditures of the money on hand: For printing minutes, $15; for clerk's salary, $15; to Representative in Baptist State Convention, $10; for expense of delegate to State Convention, $8; to Corresponding Clerk,

$2.50. Amount of money contributed, $48.66; amount expended for Associational expenses, $40.50; amount on hand, $8.16. Those that contributed for Foreign Missions, etc., I suppose have credit for the same in State Convention minutes as a whole. All money on hand intrusted with the Treasurer.

OBITUARIES.

Life, prosperity and death often collide, in which case death is inevitably the victor. Bro. P. W. MEADOWS, JR., our Church Clerk and zealous worker otherwise in the cause of his Master, died February 11th, 1885, in the 34th year of his age. His absence, of of course, overshadowed us with sorrow and grief, but our belief is, (as is also evident from the life he lived) that "he is not dead, but sleepeth."

During this year (1886) our peace has been disturbed by deaths as follows: Bro. Phillip Little, March 30th; Bro. Wm. Ratliff, Sr., March 31st, in the 58th year of his age; Bro. Near Myers, June 12th, in the 65th year of his age; Bro. Robert Hubbard, September 5th; Bro. Peter Meadows, Sr., one of the fathers and life preservers of our church, September 28th. "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." We (the Association) tender our heartfelt sympathy to the families of the deceased brethren above named, praying that that they will accept God as their Supreme Leader. We also tender like sympathy to Poplar Springs Church in mourning the absence of their beloved Sunday School Superintendent and zealous Christian worker, Bro. Jordan Thomas, who died in 1885. "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord; they shall rest from their labors."

Statistical Table.

CHURCHES.	CHURCH STATISTICS. Sunday of Preaching.	Baptized.	Rec'd by letter	Restored.	Dis. by letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Pastor's Salary.	Minute Fund.	SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS.	SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS. Months Open.	Teachers and Officers.	No. of Scholars.	S.S. Literature	Contributions to S. Schools.
Sandy Ridge	3rd	4	--	1	--	2	--	42	46	88	$ 23 00	$ 1 60	Robert McKoy	9	9	62	$ 3 00	$ 6 55
Deep Creek	2nd	28	--	8	3	11	8	124	219	343	75 00	3 50	Robert Baucum	11	7	177	4 00	10 53
Meltonsvilla	4th	9	--	10	--	20	1	121	177	298	45 00	2 50	N. H. Huntley	6	8	170	------	4 00
Poplar Springs	2nd	33	1	--	1	2	--	27	34	61	20 00	1 50	Perry Davis	9	9	131	2 00	3 31
Poplar Hill	3rd	10	--	2	--	3	1	25	61	86	20 00	1 25	H. Polk	6	4	75	50	2 00
Mt. Zion	------	11	--	3	--	3	1	26	27	53	------	------	------	----	----	40	------	------
Mt. Level	4th	9	--	1	--	4	1	26	20	46	13 00	1 25	Farker Melton	8	6	40	1 00	1 90
Nicy Grove	4th	4	--	2	--	2	1	11	18	29	------	1 00	Nelson Barrins	3	2	40	------	------
Parson Grove	1st	28	--	18	3	9	5	101	177	278	40 62	1 50	A. D. Marshall	4	6	87	54	------
Timmonsville	1st	18	--	1	3	2	--	69	97	166	35 00	1 50	G. W. Sellers	6	10	101	------	54
Rock Ford	1st	27	--	1	3	--	3	50	106	156	40 00	1 60	Elijah Gaddy	4	3	49	------	3 00
Flint Hidge	1st	9	--	10	--	5	2	26	52	78	------	1 50	------	7	8	145	------	------
Singwell	2nd	--	--	--	1	1	2	10	25	35	10 00	60	J. Chambers	10	3	50	------	------
Bethel	3rd	10	--	--	--	--	--	11	14	25	6 00	30	------	----	----	----	------	------
Philadelphia	3rd	5	--	9	--	--	1	30	40	70	7 10	50	W. Graham	4	5	35	------	85
Goodman Creek	4th	9	--	9	--	5	--	17	33	50	40 00	1 00	C. Funderbirk	----	----	35	------	------
Staten	1st	6	--	--	2	--	1	16	20	36	7 00	1 00	George Handcock	6	4	33	------	13
Sturdivant's Grove	1st	21	1	--	--	1	--	31	36	67	20 00	50	Louis Little	6	6	57	------	65
Elizabeth	2nd	21	--	--	2	3	1	25	40	65	31 84	85	G. W. Diggs	12	6	42	3 00	5 30
Brown Creek	3rd	13	--	--	5	2	--	13	11	24	15 00	75	James T ———	5	4	25	------	------
Watts Grove	1st	1	--	--	--	--	--	9	13	22	------	75	------	----	----	----	------	------
Salem	3rd	4	--	1	--	--	--	7	10	17	9 00	70	------	----	----	----	------	------
Liberty Hill	------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	----	5	1 00	50	------	----	----	----	------	------
Gum Springs	2nd	2	6	--	--	--	--	4	4	8	10 00	25	R. Covington	----	1	21	------	------
Total members, etc	------	282	8	76	23	75	28	821	1301	2122	$468 86	$26 40		114	101	1390	$35 85	$35 85